Citizens Project

The District 11 School Board has maintained an open door in drafting the proposed student publications policy. They have listened to public opinion and kept the public well-informed of their progress. The result appears to be a fair and balanced student publication policy consistent with state law and appropriately protective of students' rights to free speech. Citizens Project supports the most recent student publication policy and we commend the Board for their efforts under fire.

Citizens Project urges the community to come together at this time to support the board in focusing on immediate issues such as managing the newly awarded bond moneys and implementing state-wide standards. We must assist the Board in fulfilling the mission of public schools: providing quality education to all district students.

CFV's proposal of a Sexual Conduct Policy, an issue not even under consideration by the Board, serves only to waste the district's time and money and derail the School Board from accomplishing it's mission. In addition, Perkins' allegations that our teachers and schools are ignoring the district's abstinence only policy and teaching children to be promiscuous is an attack on District 11's integrity.

The Sexual Conduct Policy is a last ditch attempt at censorship spawned by CFV's unsuccessful attacks on the two articles in the Palmer *Lever*. Instead of limiting their attack to student publications, CFV has now broadened the reach of their censorship efforts to include all aspects of school life. Their policy would effect school libraries, curriculum decisions and classroom discussions as well as student publications.

While we all share concern about teenage pregnancy and the dangers of promiscuous activity, CFV's proposed policy and the manner in which they are promoting it fails to provide a solution. Instead, it will only sidetrack efforts to improve education in the district and further polarization in our community.

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